



**5th Annual
One Book • One Community Project
Pay It Forward by Catherine Ryan Hyde**

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This story is told from many different points of view. How do these viewpoints guide your reading and understanding? How does this affect the plot, themes, and characters?
2. Do you see yourself in one of these characters? Do you share one of their points of view?
3. "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over, and every time expecting a different result." How does this phrase convey the struggle between the need to change and the inability to do so, in each of the characters in this book?
4. What do you think is the major theme of this novel? What other themes develop through the pages, and how do they all tie together?
5. The ending of the story surprises many readers. What purpose is there in this ending?
6. Do you think the Pay It Forward phenomenon could ever catch on as strongly as it did in this novel? Could it change the Flint community? Could it change the world?
7. How can we as a community involve ourselves in Catherine Ryan Hyde's "new way of thinking; to begin to see beyond our own problems into other people's lives and figure out if there is some way we can help them?"*
8. Can caring be contagious? Is a person more likely to show kindness to others if he or she has received a kind gesture? How does this compare and contrast with the effects of receiving an unkind gesture?

9. What will you remember most about this book a year from now? Will this book leave a lasting impression on our community? Why or why not?

10. We all can affect and are affected by our community. What ideas have we learned from this book that we can apply to our own circumstances? Can we ignite positive change in our community?

*Author quote from <http://cryanhyde.com/interviews/conversation.html>

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